

15th Naval Construction Battalion

*Historical
Information*



*“Construimus, Batuimus”
“We Build, We Fight”*



1) Authenticated Itinerary of the 15th CB

1 Jul'42) - Boot Training, NCTC, Norfolk, Va.
 23 Jul'42) - Adv Base Training, Camp Bradford, Va.
 20 Aug'42) - Adv Base Training, Hueneme
 9 Sep'42) - Preparation for embarkation, Treasure Is.
 15 Sep'42) - Left U.S., Oakland Supply Base.
 13 Oct'42 - Arrived Espiritu Santo.
 24 Nov'43 - Left Espiritu Santo.
 28 Nov'43 - Arrived Auckland, N.Z.
 3 Jan'44 - Sec 1 left Auckland (approx 500 men & 20 off.)

(over)

15th C.B.

1st Embarkation

NCTC - Norfolk
 ABD - Hueneme
 Ready Date - 4 Sep'42
 Left ABD - 15 Sep'42 ✓
 Destination - Acorn 2 - Green Is. Russell Is.

2nd Embarkation

NCTC - (CBRD Parks)
 ABD - Hueneme
 Ready Date - 15 Apr'45
 Left ABD - 4 Jun'45
 Location - Okinawa

LOG

8-11-42 - 15th CB to leave Norfolk about 20 Aug'42 for Hueneme (Budocks ltr to Dupers)
 9- 7-42 - Departed Hueneme for Com 12. (Rest. Disp. from ABD Hueneme OT2348 NCR 2448 8 Sep'42)
 9-16-42 - Sailed from S.F.
 1-20-43 - Acorn 2 at Button constructing airfields, roads, aircraft facilities, avgas and fuel storage.
 4-18-43 - 130 Seamen departed from Hueneme for replacements.
 5-11-43 - 15th CB is at Espiritu Santo (Acorn 2). (ComNavBasesSoPac area to ComSoPac sec. ltr dtd 5-11-43)
 7- 3-43 - 1 Jun'43 report of 15th CB - detached from Acorn 2 (dissolved and reported to Base Ebon and assigned to 5th Reg.).
 3- 2-44 - 1 Feb'44 report of 15th CB - now at Russells. 1st Sect. arrived 8 Jan'44; 2nd Sect. arrived from Auckland on 24 Jan'44.
 4- 1-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 15th CB - Sect. 1 consisting of 472 men and 12 officers departed Russells 22 Feb'44. Sect. 2 securing their work projects 1 Mar'44 by order of CNAB Russells. On 27 Feb'44, 230 men were rec'd from CD2179. 15th CB was split into 2 sections 16 Feb'44.
 5- 5-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 1st Sect. - Batt divided into 2 sections 7 Feb'44. 471 men and

15th C.B.

15 officers assigned to 1st Sect. After staging at Russell Is., were assigned duty at this base, making the movement with the 3rd Echelon. No indication as to location. Assigned to 22nd Reg.

- 5- 6-44 - 1 Mar'44 report of 22nd Reg. - 15th CB, 1st Sect. with 22nd Reg. located at Russells pending movemnt to Square Peg (Green Is. #).
- 5-12-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 15th CB, 1st Sect. - This section detached from the 22nd Reg. at Green Is. and ordered to report to CNB Russells. This detachment took place 31 Mar'44.
- 5-27-44 - 1 Apr'44 report of 2nd Sect. - The two sections of the 15th CB have been joined during Apr'44 according to 2nd End. by Comseronsopac dtd 28 Apr'44 on subj. rep.
- 6- 3-44 - 1 May'44 report of 15th CB - operating At Russells.
- 7- 4-44 - 1 Jun'44 report of 15th CB - operating at Russells.
- 8- 3-44 - 1 Jul'44 report of 15th CB - operating at Russells.
- 8-21-44 - 15th CB is to be detached from Russells 1 Sep'44 and be returned to U.S when transportation is available. 110 men to be transferred to 61st CB that were received by this batt since 1 Sep'43, rest to go to Receiving Station at Russells (Comseronsopac (S) dispatch 180851 19 Aug'44 NCR 9410 to CNB Russells)
- 8-24-44 - 15th CB located at Russells - Arrived Espiritu Santo Oct'43
" Auckland Nov'43
" Russells Jan'44
1/2 Batt " Green Is. Feb'44
1/2 Batt ret'd Russells Apr'44

(Data of SoPac as of 1 Jul'44)

Location - Russells 15th CB

- 8-31-44 - 15th CB ready to sail to U.S. 1 Sep'44 with 21 officers and 700 men. (Comseron-sopac Sec. Disp. 272110 NCR 6134 28 Aug'44 to CNO)
- 9- 8-44 - 1 Aug'44 report of 15th CB - operating at Russells.
- 9-16-44 - 15th CB ordered to U.S. when directed. (CNO Russells Sec. ltr. dtd 2 Sep'44 P-16-4/00/MM over 00293 to CincG of 15th CB)
- 9-30-44 - 1 Sep'44 report of 15th CB - located at Russells.
- 10- 3-44 - According to the 1 Sep'44 report of the 61st CB - the 15th CB supplied the 61st CB with 111 replacements during Aug'44.
- 10- 9-44 - 15th CB arrived Parks from overseas 1 Oct'44 with 21 off. and 718 men. (O2TWX Oct'44 from Parks)
- - - - -
- 1-30-45 -- The 15th CB is to be ready for shipment to Cincpoa 1 Feb'45. (Cominch Sec. disp to Cincpoa 211829 dtd 20 Jan'45).
- 2-13-45 -- Parks ordered to transfer the 15th and 19th CB's to Hueneme about 20 Feb'45 - these batts assigned to NIVE. (CNO conf. disp to Parks 081455 Feb'45).
- 2-24-45 -- The 15th CB consisting of 25 officers and 538 men departed Parks for Hueneme 21 Feb'45. (Parks TWX222238 Feb'45 to Bupers).
- 2-26-45 -- The 15th CB will be ready for Cincpoa 15 Apr'45. (Cominch Sec. disp to Cincpoa 222134 dtd 23 Feb'45).
- 6-7-45 - The 15th CB departed Hueneme for overseas on 4 Jun'45 with 23 off. and 1070 men. (Hueneme conf disp 062205 Jun'45 to Bupers)
- 7-23-45 - The 15th CB is assigned to the 11th Brg and 46th Reg effective 10 July. (OCT APO 331 sec report on assignment of CB units ser 897 dtd 10 July)
- 8-17-45 - 1 Aug'45 report of the 15th CB - located at Okinawa. Departed Port Hueneme on 4 Jun'45 & arrived Okinawa on 14 Jul'45. Report via 45th Reg & 11th Brig.

Location- Okinawa

15th CB

- 9-26-45 - 1 Sept'45 report of 15th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 45th Reg. & 11th Brig
10-17-45 - CNOB, Okinawa requests authority to inactivate the 15th CB. (CNOB, Okinawa conf
spdltr ser 0203 dtd 20 Sept'45 to Comservpac).
10-30-45 - The following units are transferred from the 45th Reg. to 39th Reg. effective as of
28 Sept'45:- 15, 36, 79 CBs & CBMU 523. (CNCT, Okinawa conf ltr ser 0596 dtd 6
Oct'45 to 11th Brig).
10-30-45 - Comservpac approves the inactivation of the following units:- 15th CB, etc.
(Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05522 dtd 6 Oct'45 to Cincpac).
11-14-45 - Comservpac directs Comdt. Okinawa to inactivate following units 15th CB, etc.
(Comservpac conf spdltr ser 05659 dtd 23 Oct'45 to Comdt., NOB, Okinawa).
11-15-45 - 1 Oct'45 report of 15th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 39th Reg. & 11th Brig.
11-20-45 - 1 Nov'45 report of 15th CB - located at Okinawa. Report via 39th Reg. & 11th Brg.
15th CB started its de-activation on 29 Oct'45.
12-28-45 - 15th CB was inactivated on 19 Nov'45. (15th CB ltr dtd 4 Dec'45 to BuDocks).

INACTIVATED

ON BOARD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>AUTHORITY</u>
1 Jul'44		948	BNP625
1 Aug'44	28	951	R & BNP625
1 Sep'44	22	713	R & MoR
No Date - 1 Nov?		710	BNP625
1 Dec'44		699	BNP625
1 Jan'45		656	BNP625
1 Feb'45		782	BNP625
1 Mar'45		531	BNP625
1 Apr'45		567	BNP625
1 May'45	25	954	BNP625 & R
1 Jun'45	25		Roster
1 Jul'45	25	1068	Roster & Recap Sheet
1 Aug'45	25	1068	BNP625 & R
1 Sept'45	25	1063	BNP625 & R
1 Oct'45	21	825	R & BNP625
1 Nov'45	18	729	BNP625 & R
1 Dec'45	6		R

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
5/30/44	-	Russell Is.	-	Left U.S. Sept. 1942.
6/4	-	Ruwayalein Is.	Com Marshall FOHO	
7/2/44	-	U.S.	Sub area Sec. Act. disp 250849.	
			Comdenonko Bac	det'd duty 1 sept disp. 180851 Aug. return U.S. just available transportation.
9/20	-	(U.S.)	Comdenonko Bac	Embarked Russell 15 Sept.
7.21	-		sec disp. 172305 Sept.	
10/11	-	Camp Parks	(Russells sec act disp 180857 Sept.)	Delite Russells Detached 2 Sept
			Com Docto memo 10/2	returned 28 10/1.
			Cinegoa Cond. 102034 nw. - W. Coast ready date 11/1/45	Examined by Cinepra. Tentative ready date 11/1/45.

DECLASSIFIED

Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
12/22	-	Parks	C.B. memo 12/16.	Tentative ready date 2/1/45. Bine (Com Docto memo 12/23)
2/3	-	"	Com Docto memo 1/27/45.	Gen ready date 2/15- Examined Bine
2/8	-	(Bine)	Cno Conf Serial 048430 Feb 2	Ready Parks 4/15/45- Atid Bine. probable may ship 9.
2/10	-	Hueneame	Cno Conf disp 081455 Feb.	About 20 Feb. Transfer to Hueneame.
2/18	-	"	Call/ sec disp 051720 Feb	(men being left to bring fuel strength 7 11th, 35 & 68. Now - has 477 - rates and 71 non-rated. Used - priority - being shipd Bine may or early June
5/12	-	(Bine)	Cno Sec of disp 071935 May	

15 in C.B.

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Date	Organization	Location	Reference	Notes
6/5		Hueneume (Biel)	Beufake memo 6/1.	Read 7 4/15. probably from shop - and apinawa.

History of United States Naval Construction Battalion 15

The men earmarked for United States Naval Construction Battalion 15 met at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia on 1 July 1942 to begin their boot training. The battalion was joined by Lieutenant Commander William S. Lee Jr., CEC, USNR the prospective officer in charge. On July 23, the men finished their boot training and marched to Camp Bradford for their advanced military and technical training. On July 27 the battalion was officially activated at Camp Bradford.

The 15th Battalion remained in Virginia until August 20 when it was put aboard trains and departed for the west coast. Five days later the 15th Seabees arrived at the Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, California. At Hueneme's Camp Rousseau the Seabees received more training and then on September 9 left for Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay where they were outfitted for an overseas deployment.

On September 15 the Battalion left Treasure Island for the Oakland Supply Base and boarded the MS Island Mail. On October 5 the ship arrived at Noumea, New Caledonia and laid over, but the men did not debark. The ship sailed again after several days and on October 13 arrived at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides. The first night at Espiritu became a memorable one for the men of the battalion because that night they were shelled by a Japanese submarine. There was no damage and no casualties.

After landing, the 15th Seabees established a camp and started working on their assigned projects. Their major project was the improvement of an existing bomber strip from which B-17 aircraft could bomb the Japanese on Guadalcanal. The Seabees also worked on a Marine fighter strip, camps, barges, and hospitals, and repaired the battle damaged cruiser USS Pensacola and two other ships.

The 15th Battalion remained on Espiritu Santo for about thirteen months, and on November 24, 1943 it left the island for New Zealand. The 15th Seabees arrived at Auckland four days later and were given ten

days leave. When they returned from leave, the battalion was broken up into small detachments and worked on a number of projects around New Zealand. Among these was the construction of air facilities at a Royal New Zealand Air Force base, a mess hall, galley and roads and other facilities around New Zealand.

Two days after the New Year in 1944, one half of the battalion left New Zealand for the Russell Islands. The first echelon arrived at Banika in the Russells on January 8, and on the 12th the remainder of the battalion left for the same destination. The second group landed at Banika on the 25th and the entire battalion worked on Banika. At the end of March one half the 15th Seabees went to Pavuvu in the same island group. On Pavuvu, the detachment worked on a pontoon dock, roads, and a hospital until May 31, then they rejoined the battalion on Banika.

On February 22, a section of the 15th Seabees went to Green Island. The section, consisting of approximately 460 officers and men, worked on strips for bombers and fighter planes, a tank farm, roads and a pontoon dock, on April 1 the men returned to Banika.

On September 9, 1944 the entire battalion sailed for the United States. The men arrived at Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California on October 1, and then dispersed to their homes for leave. When the 15th Seabees gathered again at Camp Parks they began preparing for another overseas assignment. They left Camp Parks on February 24, 1945 and went to Port Hueneme, California.

The 15th Seabees arrived at Port Hueneme on the same day, and after becoming settled at Camp Rousseau, began training and outfitting again. On June 4, 1945 the 15th Naval Construction Battalion sailed from Port Hueneme. The battalion's ship joined a convoy at Ulithi and ten days later landed at Okinawa, in the Ryukyus, at an anchorage in Buckner's Bay.

On Okinawa, the 15th Seabees worked on the construction of three hospitals, a tank farm, a Joint Communication Center and offices and quarters for the Commanding General of the Tenth Army. The men of the 15th also worked on the construction and maintenance of roads and

built a complete water works. Another detachment of the battalion maintained a pontoon barge pier, while other members of the battalion built and maintained the Seabee Camp.

World War Two came to an end in September 1945 and on November 19, 1945 the battalion was inactivated on Okinawa Shima.

15th Naval Construction Battalion

Chronology

01-23 Jul 1942	The men earmarked for United States Naval Construction Battalion 15 underwent boot training at the United States Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Allen, Virginia.
27 Jul 1942	The 15 th Battalion was activated at the adjoining Camp Bradford. There the battalion underwent advanced military and technical training.
20 Aug 1942	The battalion boarded trains at Camp Bradford and headed for Port Hueneme, California.
25 Aug 1942	The 15 th Seabees arrived at Port Hueneme where they continued their Advance Base Training and outfitted for overseas deployment.
09 Sept 1942	NCB 15 departed Port Hueneme for Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. There the battalion finished outfitting for overseas duty.
15 Sept. 1942	The battalion boarded ship and sailed from the Oakland Supply Base, Oakland, California.
13 Oct 1942	The 15 th Seabees arrived at Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides. There the battalion extended the main air base runway and built revetments and other facilities for Bomber Strip One. The Seabees also worked on a Marine fighter strip, camps, barges, hospitals, and fifty miles of roads. They also repaired three ships including the USS <u>Pensacola</u> .
24 Nov 1943	Naval Construction Battalion 15 departed Espiritu Santo.
28 Nov 1943	The battalion arrived at Auckland, New Zealand. The men were given leave then were divided into small units and worked on small projects throughout the island.
03 Jan 1944	The first echelon, consisting of 500 men and 20 officers, departed from New Zealand.
08 Jan 1944	The first echelon of the 15 th Battalion arrived at Banika, Russell Islands.
12 Jan 1944	The second section, that is, the remainder of the battalion, left New Zealand.
25 Jan 1944	The second section of the battalion arrived at Banika. The battalion worked on a variety of projects in the Russells including a pontoon dock, roads, and a hospital.
22 Feb 1944	Section one left Banika.
25 Feb 1944	The first section arrived at Green Island. The detachment consisted of approximately 460 officers and men. The men worked on airstrips for bombers and fighter planes, a tank farm, roads and a pontoon dock.

26 Mar 1944	One half of the battalion went to Pavuvu in the Russell Islands to work on a hospital, officers mess, and pontoon dock.
01 Apr 1944	The detachment left Green Island to return to Banika.
03 Apr 1944	The Seabees in the detachment arrived at Banika.
31 May 1944	The Pavuvu detachment returned to Banika.
09 Sept 1944	The entire battalion left Banika.
01 Oct 1944	The battalion arrived in the United States. The 15 th Seabees then went to Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California. From there they dispersed for leave and then later they returned and regrouped and trained for a second tour of duty.
24 Feb 1945	The battalion left Camp Parks and traveled to Port Hueneme, California. The 15 th Seabees arrived at Hueneme on the same day and began outfitting and training for overseas deployment.
04 Jun 1945	Naval Construction Battalion 15 departed from Port Hueneme on the USS <u>Comet</u> .
14 Jul 1945	The 15 th Battalion arrived at Okinawa in the Ryukus. On Okinawa the Battalion worked on headquarters for the Commanding General of the Tenth U.S. Army, a joint communication center, several hospitals, a tank farm, and the construction and maintenance of roads.
19 Nov 1945	United States Naval Construction Battalion 15 was inactivated on Okinawa.

15th Naval Construction Battalion

Officers in Charge

Commander William S. Lee, Jr.	27 Jul 1942 – 08 Nov 1943
Lieutenant Commander Theodore H. Butler	08 Nov 1943 – 22 Oct 1945*
Lieutenant Commander John A. Walker (acting)	24 Sept 1945 – 22 Oct 1945
Lieutenant Commander John A. Walker	22 Oct 45 – 19 Nov 45
Lieutenant Junior Grade John D. McAulay (acting)	11 Nov 1945 – 19 Nov 1945**

*** On 24 Sept 1945, Lieutenant Commander Butler was assigned temporary additional duty as Officer in Charge of Naval Construction Battalion 101. At that time Lieutenant Commander Walker was acting Officer in Charge of NCB 15. On 22 October 1945 he Became the Officer in Charge.**

**** Lieutenant McAuley inactivated the battalion and turned all records and property over to the Naval Operating Base, Okinawa.**







ALL MEN OF 15th CB NOT IN
UNIFORM WILL BE DETAINED ON REPORT
Those NOT IN UNIFORM WILL
BE DETAINED TO THE CAMP AREA





